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How the CIA Bungled

After some delay, which has been correctly interpreted as reluctance, both Allen Dulles, chief director of the Central Intelligence Agency, and Secretary of State Dean Rusk have agreed to appear in executive session before the Senate Foreign Relations committee and tell what they know about the Cuban "invasion" failure.

If the full story is later revealed to the American people, most will be shocked to discover that the CIA was going far beyond its original function of gathering information on our foes, and conducting espionage, to assume duties of the Defense and State Departments.

The CIA began working with the Cuban rebels last June, or nearly a year ago. As plans for an anti-Castro revolt developed, so did disunity among the Cuban refugees grow. There was personal friction among the leaders; more important there were philosophical differences so that the issue of conservatism versus liberalism was created, or aggravated.

According to information now available from rebel sources, this schism came to a head late in January, within the invasion force gathered in Guatemala. The charge is made—and it should be repudiated or confirmed—that with the sanction of CIA a right-wing rebel group seized control of the revolutionary movement, drew plans to supplant Castro with a right-wing dictatorship, and imprisoned in Guatemala some 200 Cubans of the liberal wing who protested.

This group, members of which were released only last week, included the rebel group's former chief of communications and a number of well known Cuban lawyers and news reporters. Furthermore, other leaders of the revolt movement were locked up in a house in Florida and isolated from the invasion after having been taken there from New York by agents of the CIA.

This is a shocking story, and it is doubtful if Pres. Kennedy knew what was transpiring when he permitted the rebellion to proceed under the direction of the CIA. And if Latin America learns confirmation of the accusation that CIA was working with, and supporting, former leaders of the Batista regime, the injury already done to us will be rendered much worse.